

# THE IBIS.

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XXXIV.—*On a Collection of Birds from Somaliland.* By HARRY F. WITHERBY. *With Field-notes by the Collector, Captain A. E. HAMERTON, R.A.M.C., D.S.O.*

(Plate X.)

THE collection which is described in the following pages was made by my friend Capt. A. E. Hamerton, while on active service with the Somaliland Field Force in 1903-4. Capt. Hamerton experienced many difficulties in making the collection, owing to military exigencies. He had the ill-fortune also to lose several little collections and many odd skins in various ways. For instance, all his boxes had to be abandoned on one crossing of the terrible Haud, so that it was only by dint of great perseverance that he was able to send home any skins at all.

Many Somaliland collections have been described in 'The Ibis,' but most of them have been made in Western Somaliland, whereas a large number of Capt. Hamerton's birds were obtained in Eastern Somaliland. For this reason the specimens, although so few, are extremely interesting. The Larks, with several distinctly new forms, are of special note,

and there is no doubt that the eastern half of Somaliland contains many unknown species of birds.

Judging from the few birds which Capt. Hamerton sent from Obbia, that district, which should be easy to work, would make a profitable hunting-ground.

It is impossible to give an itinerary of Capt. Hamerton's wanderings with the Field Force. Over 2000 miles were covered, and the same ground was often passed over several times.

The following table of the places from which the specimens are dated, together with their approximate positions, will give an idea of the region visited:—

1903.		
Jan. 11, 12, 13, 15, 17.	Obbia, East Coast of Somaliland.	
Feb. 3.	Galkayu, about 120 miles N.W. of Obbia (6° 50' N. lat., 47° 30' E. long.).	
„ 16 & 20.	Obbia.	
March 11, 14, 20, 23.	Dibbit, near Galkayu.	
April 3 & 6.	Galkayu.	
May, 3, 4, 9, 14, 20, 30.	Bera, near Galkayu.	
July 27, 28.	Upper Sheikh, about 40 miles south of Berbera.	
Sept. 3.	Galkayu.	
„ 7.	Belindula.	
Dec. 17, 20, 23, 24, 29, 30.	Eil Dab, about 100 miles S.S.E. of Berbera (about 9° N. lat., 46° E. long.).	
1904.		
Jan. 16.	Dari Ali, Nogal Valley, about 60 miles S.E. of Eil Dab.	
Feb. 12, 15.	Eil Dab.	
„ 16.	Olesan, near Eil Dab.	
„ 20.	Burao, near Eil Dab.	
March 1-4.	Upper Sheikh.	
„ 6, 16.	} Wasangali Country. }	N.E. Smaliland, about 11° N. lat., 48° E. long.
„ 17.		
April 1.	Auseneh.	

My best thanks for much kind help and advice are due and here rendered to Dr. E. Hartert, Mr. Ogilvie-Grant, and Dr. R. B. Sharpe.

#### 1. *NECTARINIA METALLICA* Licht.

138 & 139. ♂♂. Auseneh, Wasangali Country, April 1, 1904.

2. *CINNYRIS HAWKERI* Neum.

117. ♂. Buraq, Feb. 20, 1904.

The red tips to the blue feathers of the lower part of the pectoral band are bleached to a greyish colour.

3. *CHALCOMITRA HUNTERI* (Shelley).

46. ♂. Bera, May 9, 1903.

57. ♂. Bera, May 4, 1903.

100. ♂. Eil Dab, Feb. 15, 1904.

In No. 100 the colour of the gorget has changed from crimson to orange, and the other metallic colours have altered, probably owing to the carbolio powder which was sprinkled among the birds in the box in which they were packed.

4. *ANTHOTHREPTES ORIENTALIS* Hartl.

22. ♂. Dibbit, March 14, 1903.

5. *PARUS THRUPPI* Shelley.

141. ♂. Auseneh, Wasangali Country, April 1, 1904.

6. *PARISOMA BOEIMI* Reichen.

107. ♂. Eil Dab, December 20, 1903.

"Iris hazel. Good songster. The song is loud, but short and scrappy like that of a Sedge-Warbler."—A. E. H.

7. *ANTHUS SORDIDUS* Rüpp.

144. ♀. Auseneh, Wasangali, April 1, 1904.

8. *ANTHUS CAMPESTRIS* (Linn.).

143. ♂. Auseneh, Wasangali, April 1, 1904.

9. *MIRAFRA GILLETTI* Sharpe.

Unnumbered. ♂. Bera, May 4, 1903.

109. ♂. Eil Dab, Dec. 30, 1904 [1903].

111. ♀. Eil Dab, Dec. 30, 1903.

The unnumbered specimen from Bera is rather small for a male, and is paler on the back and less striated on the upper breast and throat than the others. It is in rather worn plumage, which may account for its pale colouring.

10. *MIRAFRA COLLARIS* Sharpe (Bull. B. O. C. vol. v p. xxiv).

27. ♂. Dibbit; no date, but probably March 1903.

115. ♂. Olesan, Feb. 16, 1904.

The only specimen in the British Museum of this beautiful Lark has no exact locality on the label; and Dr. Sharpe described it as collected by Dr. Donaldson Smith on his expedition to Lake Rudolph, giving no more exact locality.

In coloration No. 115 agrees with Dr. Smith's specimen; but No. 27 is decidedly paler on the upperside, and on the underside including the under wing-coverts. The primaries of this bird (27) are edged with white instead of chestnut, but it is in somewhat faded plumage, and Dr. Smith's bird is freshly moulted.

The wings measure:—No. 27, 86 mm.; No. 115, 79 mm.; Dr. Smith's specimen, 86 mm.

“This bird is very shy. It does not fly much, but runs with great celerity, and then squats under a bush until danger is past. Its red plumage blends with the colour of the soil, so that it becomes almost invisible. It is found only where the soil is brick-red, as on the Haud. It occasionally gives forth a short weak song, uttered from the top of a low bush. Nowhere a common bird, it is most numerous in the Haud, and is occasionally seen near its northern and southern borders. I have never seen more than one at a time.”—A. E. H.

#### 11. *CERTHILAUDA SOMALICA*. (Plate X.)

*Certhilauda somalica* Witherby, Bull. B. O. C. vol. xiv. p. 29.

Unnumbered. ♂. Dibbit, March 11, 1903.

I have already fully described this Lark, which appears to belong to a species very distinct from all others.

Capt. Shelley considers that it should be placed in the genus *Mirafra*, because its bill measures less than its middle toe and claw (see Reichen. Vög. Afr. vol. iii. pt. i. p. 352, footnote).

I measure the bill from the base of the skull as 1 inch and the middle toe and claw as .9 inch. Capt. Shelley perhaps measures from the tips of the feathers to the tip of the bill.

Taking Dr. Sharpe's key to the genera of Larks in the 'Catalogue of Birds' (vol. xiii. p. 512) as a guide, this bird

must certainly be placed in the genus *Certhilanda*. In this Dr. Sharpe, who has kindly examined the bird with me, agrees.

The bill, the feet and claws, and the wing seem to me in structure and shape to agree very nearly with those of other species of *Certhilanda*, and not with those of *Mirafra*.

12. *ALEMION HAMERTONI*, sp. nov.

♂ *ad.* Head, mantle, scapulars, back, and upper wing-coverts greyish brown, the feathers tipped with pale grey. Upper tail-coverts pinkish buff. Tail-feathers dark brown edged with buff. Primaries brown margined with buff. Secondaries darker brown edged with pinkish buff. Chin and throat white; upper breast greyish brown; lower breast, belly, flanks, and under tail-coverts white washed with pinkish buff. Under wing-coverts and axillaries white; an indistinct pale buff supercilium. The secondaries nearly equal in length to the primaries.

Measurements in inches :—Wing 4, tail 3, tarsus 1·3, culmen from base of skull ·9, middle toe with claw ·8, hind toe with claw ·7, claw of hind toe ·35.

1st (bastard) primary from tip of under wing-coverts ·9.

The female, from the same place and shot on the same date, is similar to the male.

Type (in Brit. Mus.), ♂. Obbia, east coast of Somaliland, January 13, 1903 (A. E. Hamerton, collector).

Both specimens are in worn plumage and are just beginning to moult, the new feathers sprouting on the back being of a slightly darker colour than the old ones.

This bird seems to be a very distinct species. It may be distinguished at once from *Alemion desertorum*, its nearest ally, by the absence of white bars on the wing and by its smaller size. It is also rather darker on the back than *A. desertorum*, and has no distinct spots on the upper breast.

13. *ALEMION HAMERTONI ALTERA*, subsp. nov.

♂ *ad.* This bird differs from typical *A. hamertoni* described above by the whole of the upperside being of a pale sandy colour. The flanks and belly are also more buff-coloured and

the upper breast is more faintly marked with greyish brown, while the under wing-coverts and axillaries are pale sandy buff. The buff-coloured supercilium is also more distinct.

Measurements in inches :—Wing 3·9, tail 2·8, tarsus 1·2, culmen from base of skull ·9, middle toe and claw ·7, hind toe and claw ·65, claw of hind toe ·35.

Type (in Brit. Mus.), ♂. El Afweena, Wasangali Country, Somaliland, March 16, 1904 (A. E. Hamerton, collector).

Another male procured on April 1, 1904, at Auseneh, also in the Wasangali Country, is similar and has the same measurements, except that the wing is 4 and the tail 3 inches.

#### 14. *SPIZOCORYS OBBIENSIS*, sp. nov.

*Ad.* Top of head, mantle, wings, and wing-coverts dark brown margined with greyish white. Rump pale buff with indistinct brown transverse markings. Upper tail-coverts buff. Tail dark brown, with the three outer pairs of feathers edged with white and the rest margined with pale buff. An indistinct white supercilium and a white mark running from the nostril under the eye and curving up nearly meeting the supercilium. Chin and throat white. Breast greyish white, the feathers mesially streaked with dark brown. Belly and under tail-coverts buffish white. Axillaries and under wing-coverts greyish white. Under lining of the wing on the inner margins of the feathers pinkish.

Measurements in inches :—Wing 2·6, 1st primary ·4. Bill from base of skull ·55; at nostrils, height ·28, breadth ·2. Tarsus ·7. Middle toe and claw ·6. Hind toe and claw ·65; hind claw ·4.

Secondaries ·2 shorter than primaries.

Nostrils covered with stiff bristly plumes.

Type (in Brit. Mus.). Obbia, east coast of Somaliland, Jan. 12, 1903 (A. E. Hamerton, collector).

I have given as full a description of this bird as possible, because I am not at all certain in which genus it should be placed.

I have taken Dr. Sharpe's key to the *Alaudidae* in the Cat. of Birds (vol. xiii. p. 512) as my guide, and according to this the bird may be a *Spizocorys*.

The bird appears to be too unlike any other Lark to make any comparison useful. Unfortunately Capt. Hamerton obtained only one specimen.

15. PSEUDALEMON FREEMANTLII (Lort Phillips).

44. ♂. Bera, May 9, 1903.

135. ♀. El Afweena, Wasangali Country, March 16, 1904.

16. TEPHROCORYS BLANFORDI, Shelley, Birds of Africa, vol. iii. p. 128, pl. xxi. fig. 2.

136. ♂. Gur Anod, Wasangali Country, March 17, 1904.

I have referred this specimen to this species, but the material available is altogether insufficient to make it clear whether the species is a good one or not. The type and only example of the species in the British Museum is certainly very different from typical *T. ruficeps*, being smaller and very much paler on the back and less rufous on the flanks.

The specimen procured by Capt. Hamerton is slightly paler than the type and is smaller, measuring in inches as follows:—Wing 3, tarsus .6, culmen .35.

The type was shot in Northern Abyssinia, while in Western Somaliland the typical *T. ruficeps* is found, so that it would appear strange for another example of *T. blanfordi* to be found in North-eastern Somaliland.

More material may prove that the North Abyssinian birds and the North-eastern Somali birds are two distinct races of the typical *T. ruficeps*.

17. AMMOMANES DESERTI AKELEYI.

*Ammomanes akeleyi* Elliot, Field Columb. Mus. Pub. 17, vol. i. no. 2, p. 39.

113. ♂. Eil Dab, Dec. 23, 1903.

This specimen has been compared with others in the British Museum collected by Dr. Donaldson Smith, and by Messrs. Lort Phillips and Hawker in Somaliland. These, however, do



not agree with Mr. Elliot's description, in that the rumps are bright deep buff like the under wing and not by any means "golden buff," and the colouring of the top of the head does not form a "kind of cap," but is similar to that of the back, except that the dark brown mesial markings of the feathers on the head are accentuated. But as the birds appear to come from the same region, and the description otherwise tallies, perhaps these specimens are the same as the type.

I cannot agree with Capt. Shelley (*Birds of Afr.* vol. iii. p. 97) that this bird is the same as *A. d. phœnicuroides*. They seem to me perfectly distinct, and I think *A. d. akeleyi* is more nearly like *A. d. algeriensis*.

"Common on the stony summits of hills."—A. E. H.

18. *GALERIDA THEKLÆ ELLIOTI*.

*Galerida ellioti* Hartert, Nov. Zool. 1897, p. 144.

*Galerida pallida* (non *pallida* Brehm) Elliot, Field Columb. Mus. Pub. 17, vol. i. no. 2, p. 38.

101. ♀. Eil Dab, Feb. 12, 1904 [wing 3·8 inches].

This specimen has the short bill and long first (bastard) primary like other members of the *Galerida theklæ* group, but its under wing-coverts are pale buff without a trace of grey, while all other *theklæ* have grey on the under wing-coverts.

Dr. Hartert, to whom I have submitted the specimen, considers it to be, from the description, referable to *G. ellioti*, but neither he nor myself has had access to the type.

19. *PYRRHULAUDA MELANAUCHEN* (Cab.).

6. ♂. Obbia, Jan. 13, 1903.

I think that this bird will prove to belong to an undescribed race most nearly allied to *P. melanauchen*, but the male with no white frontal spot and with the mantle very pale. In this specimen, which is too much abraded to make a proper description or comparison possible, the mantle and upper wing-coverts are nearly white, but the bird is no doubt much faded, as the black part of the plumage has become a rusty-brown. There is no trace of a white frontal spot, and I think the bird could never have had one.



20. *EMBERIZA POLIOPLEURA* (Salvad.).

40 & 40. ♂♂. Bera, May 4, 1903.

21. *POLIOSPIZA TRISTRIATA* (Rüpp.).

*Poliospiza pallidior* Lort Phil. Ibis, 1898, p. 398.

121. ♀. Upper Sheikh, March 1, 1904.

I cannot agree with Mr. Lort Phillips that the Somaliland birds are separable from the Abyssinian ones of this species. If there is a constant difference it is an exceedingly small one, and such fine distinctions should be based on a large series of specimens. There are only a few Abyssinian specimens in the British Museum, and these are mostly old and, I think, slightly discoloured.

22. *FRINGILLARIA STRIOLATA* (Licht.).

140. ♂. Ausench, Wasangali Country, April 1, 1904.

23. *SERINUS DONALDSONI* Sharpe.

37. ♂. Galkayu, April 6, 1903.

24. *SERINUS MACULICOLLIS* Sharpe.

114. ♂. Olesan, Feb. 16, 1904.

This specimen has been more or less bleached, perhaps by carbolic acid. The green and yellow have disappeared.

25. *HYPHANTORNIS SPEKII* Heugl.

142. ♂. Ausench, Wasangali Country, April 1, 1904.

"Iris golden yellow."—A. E. H.

26. *GRANATINA IANTHINOASTER* (Reichen.).

99. ♂. Eil Dab, Feb. 15, 1904.

"Bill coral-red, eye coral-red, iris dull gold colour."—A. E. H.

*G. hawkeri* Lort Phillips (Bull. B. O. C. vol. viii. p. xxiii) seems to me a very doubtful form. The blue feathers on the head are only blue-tipped, and when the feathers become worn the blue colouring naturally diminishes in extent. Specimens in worn plumage become also paler on the head and back. A good series of specimens in fresh plumage may prove that the Somaliland bird belongs to a distinguishable race.

"Very shy bird. Lives in grassy bottoms of thick bush and is rarely seen though common."—A. E. H.

27. *PASSER CASTANOPTERUS* Blyth.

45. ♂. Bera, May 9, 1903.

129 & 130. ♂ ♂. Upper Sheikh, March 1, 1904.

131 & 132. ♀ ♀. Upper Sheikh, March 4, 1904.

As the female does not appear to be well known, it may be briefly described as being on the whole of the underside bright yellowish buff colour, becoming duller on the flanks; while the upperside is like that of the male, except that all the chestnut colour in the male is replaced by buffish brown in the female.

"This was a scarce bird in Somaliland before the war. It now (1904) swarms along the lines of communication, following the ration convoys from post to post, feeding on the animal droppings and litter from the grain-bags."—A. E. H.

28. *PASSER DIFFUSUS SWAINSONI*.

*Pyrgita swainsoni* Rüpp. Neue Wirb. p. 94.

128. ♂. Upper Sheikh, March 1, 1904.

29. *DINEMELLIA DINEMELLI* (Rüpp.).

25. ♀. Dibbit, March 20, 1903.

30. *TEXTOR INTERMEDIUS* Cab.

38. ♂. Bera, May 4, 1903.

31. *PHOLIDAUGES BICOLOR* (Reichen.).

39 & 39. ♂ ♀. Bera, May 4, 1903.

"Iris crimson."

32. *COSMOPSARUS REGIUS* Reichen.

28. ♂. Galkayu; no date, probably early April 1903.

"Iris white."—A. E. H.

33. *LAMPROCOLIUS CHALYBEUS* (Ehr.).

No label.

34. *SPREO ALBICAPILLUS* Blyth.

32. ♀. Galkayu, April 6, 1903.

35. *SPREO SUPERBUS* (Rüpp.).

28. ♂. Galkayu; no date, probably early April 1903.

"Iris white."—A. E. H.

36. *AMYDRUS BLYTHI* Hartl.

122. ♀. } Upper Sheikh, March 1, 1904.  
 123. ♂. }

"Iris crimson."—A. E. H.

37. *EUROCEPHALUS RUEPELLI* Bonap.

60. ♀. Upper Sheikh, July 28, 1903.

119. ♀. Burao, Feb. 20, 1904.

38. *LANIUS ANTINORII* Salvad.

26. No sex. Dibbit, March 20, 1903.

39. *NILAUS MINOR* Sharpe.

56. ♂. } Bera, May 4, 1903.  
 58. ♀. }

40. *DRYOSCOPIUS ÆTHIOPICUS* (Gmel.).

One, no label.

126. ♂. } Upper Sheikh, March 1, 1904.  
 126. ♀. }

41. *LANIARIUS CRUENTUS HILGERTI*.

*Pelicanus cruentus hilgerti* Neumann, Orn. Monat. xi.  
 no. 12, p. 182.

53. ♂. Bera, May 30, 1903.

59 [♀]. Upper Sheikh, July 28, 1903.

103. ♂. } Eil Dab, December 17, 1903.  
 104. ♀. }

These and other Somaliland specimens, as compared with Abyssinian examples, are darker brown and washed with a stronger pink on the upperside (the variation in the pink coloration is perhaps an individuality), while the flanks are more heavily marked with gold-buff colour. The female of this form cannot well be distinguished from that of *L. c. cathemagmenus*.

42. *ARGYA AYLNERI* Shelley.

51. ♀. Bera, May 20, 1903.

43. *CRATEROPUS SMITHII* Sharpe.

127. ♀. Upper Sheikh, March 1, 1904.

"Iris red."—A. E. H.

44. *AËDON GALACTODES MINOR.*

*Aëdon minor* Cab. Mus. Hein. i. p. 39 (1850).

*Sylvia galactodes* Temm.; Seebohm, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. vol. v. p. 34, specimens *m, n, o, p.*

47. ♂. Bera, May 14, 1903.

This specimen is particularly small, measuring as follows in inches:—Wing 2·8, tail 2·5, culmen ·65, tarsus ·85.

The outer margins of the secondaries are very distinctly fringed with white.

I have examined eleven other specimens from Abyssinia and Somaliland, and although not one of them is so small as this specimen, they are all small compared with examples from South Europe and North Africa. The white margins of the secondaries are not perhaps a constant character, but the small size of the Somaliland and Abyssinian birds entitle them to subspecific rank. Cabanis's description was based upon a single specimen from Abyssinia.

45. *AËDON GALACTODES FAMILIARIS.*

*Sylvia familiaris* Ménétr. Cat. Rais. Canc. p. 32.

137. ♂. Auseneh, Wasangali Country, April 1, 1904.

46. *ERYTHROPYGIA LEUCOPTERA* (Rüpp.).

106. ♂. Eil Dab, Dec. 20, 1903.

47. *SAXICOLA CENANTHE* (Linn.).

4. ♂. Obbia, Jan. 12, 1903.

48. *SAXICOLA MORIO* H. & E.

108. ♂. Eil Dab, Dec. 29, 1903.

49. *SAXICOLA PHILLIPSI* Shelley.

24. ♂. Dibbit, undated, probably March 1903.

50. *BRADYORNIS PUMILUS* Sharpe.

Unnumbered. ♂. Galkayu, April 6, 1903.

112. ♂. Eil Dab, Dec. 24, 1903.

51. *BATIS ORIENTALIS* (Heugl.).

105. ♂. Eil Dab, Dec. 17, 1903.

This specimen is very small, but, I think, should be referred to this species. It measures in inches as follows:—Wing 1·9, tail 1·2, culmen ·6, tarsus ·6.

The bird is evidently in transitional plumage, and may not be fully adult, since the pectoral band is a mixture of blue-black and chestnut feathers.

It may be that both sexes have a black band across the breast at certain ages, and so the question of the varying determinations of the sexes may be explained (see Grant, *Ibis*, 1904, p. 270).

52. TERPSIPHONE CRISTATA (Gm.).

124. ♂. }  
 125. ♂. } Upper Sheikh, March 1, 1904.  
 125. ♀. }

124 has no rufous, and the back and tail are almost pure white.

53. CAPRIMULGUS TORRIDUS Lort Phillips.

22. ♂. Dibbit, March 14, 1903.

54. CAPRIMULGUS EUROPÆUS UNWINI.

*Caprimulgus unwini* Hume, *Ibis*, 1871, p. 406.

66. ♂. Belindula, Sept. 7, 1903.

"Not common in Somaliland."—A. E. H.

55. CORACIAS LORTI Shelley.

75. ♂. Belindula, Sept. 7, 1903.

56. MELITTOPHAGUS REVOILII (Oust.).

18. ♂. Dibbit, March 11, 1903.

57. IRRISOR SOMALIENSIS Grant.

Unnumbered. ♂. Upper Sheikh, July 27, 1903.

58. RHINOPOMASTUS MINOR (Rüpp.).

55. ? sex. Bera, May 4, 1903.

59. COLIUS MACRURUS (Linn.).

35. ♂. }  
 36. ♀. } Galkayu, April 6, 1903.

60. SCHIZORHIS LEUCOGASTER (Rüpp.).

31. ♂. Galkayu, April 6, 1903.

54. ♀. Bera, May 20, 1903.

61. TRICHOLEMA BLANDI Lort Phillips.

33. ♂. Galkayu, April 6, 1903.

62. TRACHYPHONUS ERYTHROCEPHALUS Cab.

Unnumbered. ♂. Bera, May 4, 1903.

This specimen is, I think, a female, since it has no black mesial line on the throat, and its head is red instead of black.

Prof. Reichenow considers that *T. shelleyi* equals *T. erythrocephalus*.

63. DENDROPICUS HEMPRICHI (H. & E.).

145. ♂. } Ausench, Wasangali Country, April 1, 1904.  
140. ? ♀. }

64. CAMPOTHERA NUBICA (Gmel.).

41. ♂. } Bera, May 4, 1903.  
42. ♀. }

These specimens are small, each measuring only 3·8 inches in the wing.

The breast and flanks of No. 41 are whiter and less spotted, and the back is paler than typical specimens.

65. VINAGO WAALIA (Gm.).

Unnumbered. ♂. Upper Sheikh, March 1, 1904.

66. PŒOCEPHALUS RUFIVENTRIS (Rüpp.).

49. ♂. Bera, no date.

67. CARINE SPILOGASTRA (Heuglin).

Unnumbered. ♂. Galkayu, April 3, 1903.

68. SCOPS LEUCOTIS Temm.

Unnumbered. ♀. Galkayu, Feb. 3, 1903.

Pale on back and very few dark markings on nape. The width of the transverse bars on the wing-feathers varies individually. In this specimen the bars are very narrow.

69. POLIOHIERAX SEMITORQUATUS (Smith).

54. ♀. } Bera, May 4, 1903.  
43. ♂. }

The sexes in these two specimens are evidently wrong and should be reversed.

70. MELIERAX GABAR (Daud.).

74. ♂. Eil Dab, Dec. 23, 1903.

Small, measuring :—Wing 173, tail 155, tarsus 42, and culmen 16 mm.

71. FRANCOLINUS SPILOGASTER Salvad.

No label. ? Upper Sheikh.

72. ACRYLLIUM VULTURINUM (Hardw.).

Unnumbered. ♂. Galkayu, April 3, 1903.

73. PTEROCLURUS EXUSTUS (Temm.).

29 & 29. ♂ ♀. Galkayu, April 3, 1903.

No label [ ♀. ? same place and date].

The yellow in these specimens is of a very rich and deep shade, and so also is that in the specimens of the two following species. I have not referred these birds to *P. e. somalicus* Hartert, because it seems to me that the colour of these Sand-Grouse varies according to the colour of the desert which the birds inhabit; and there being apparently similarly coloured deserts in regions remote from each other, there are similarly coloured Sand-Grouse in those regions. At least I think this a possible explanation of the difficulty of dividing these birds, which vary so much in shades of colour, into satisfactory geographical races.

74. PTEROCLURUS SENEGALLUS (Linn.).

133. ♂. } El Afweena, Wasangali Country, March 16,  
133A. ♂. } 1904.

75. PTEROCLES LICHTENSTEINI Temm.

Two males without labels.

76. LOPHOTIS GINDIANA (Oust.).

20. ♂. Dibbit, March 11, 1903.

25. ♀. Dibbit, March 23, 1903.

Rather small, measuring :—

20. Wing 9·3, tail 5, tarsus 3, culmen 1·4 inches.

25. „ 8·8, „ 4·9, „ 2·6, „ 1·4 „

77. HETEROTETRAX HUMILIS (Blyth).

116. ♂. Olcsan, Feb. 16, 1904.



118. ♀ .  
 Unnumbered. ♂ . } Burao, Feb. 20, 1904.  
 "Iris yellow."—A. E. H.

78. *NEOTIS HEUGLINI* (Hartl.).  
 Unnumbered. ♀ . Dari Ali, Nogal Valley, Jan. 16, 1904.

79. *ÆDICNEMUS AFFINIS* Rüpp.  
 20. ♀ . Dibbit, March 11, 1903.

80. *CURSORIUS GALLICUS SOMALENSIS* Shelley.

2. ♀ . }  
 3. ♂ . } Obbia, Jan. 12, 1903.

12. Juv. Obbia, Jan. 17, 1903.

The colour of the upperside and of the breast of this form seems to vary slightly, but Nos. 2 and 3 are of a drab-brown rather than of a sandy-buff.

The young bird (No. 12) as compared with the young of typical *C. gallicus* has a much darker upperside, with a more black and white appearance, the feathers of the top of the head and back being of a very dark brown with transverse bars of pale buff. The wing-coverts are pale buff barred with dark brown. The tail-feathers are ashy-grey on the basal half and buff barred with dark brown on the lower half. The feathers of the upper breast are buff, lightly barred with brown. The axillaries are ashy-grey as in the adult.

81. *RHINOPTILUS HARTINGI* Sharpe.  
 26 & 26. ♀ ♂ . Dibbit, March 20, 1903.

82. *ÆGIALITIS PECUARIA* (Temm.).

16. ♂ . }  
 17. ♀ . } Obbia, Feb. 16, 1903.

83. *ÆGIALITIS MARGINATA* (Vieill.).

9. ♂ . Obbia, Jan. 15, 1903.

84. *CHARADRIUS ASIATICUS* Pall.

1. ♂ . Obbia, Jan. 11, 1903.

10. ♂ . ,, Jan. 15, 1903.

18. ♂ . ,, Feb. 20, 1903.



H. G. S. S. S. S. S.

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CERTHILAUDA SOMALICA.